

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 MBFR-04 AID-20 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 111700Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6635

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5180

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH-MAURITANIA RELATIONS

REFS: MADRID A-85 OF MAY 2, 1973, AND NOUAKCHOTT 261

1. FOLLOWING PARTICIPATION AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN SEPTEMBER 10-11. AFTER MEETINGS WITH FRANCO AND FONMIN LOPEZ RODO IN SAN SEBASTIAN, MOUKNASS FLEW WITH LATTER TO MADRID FOR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARRERO BLANCO.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN SEBASTIAN SEPTEMBER 10 MOUKNASS SAID GIRM AGREED WITH SPAIN TO CARRYING OUT UNGA RESOLUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH SAHARA AND WOULD RESPECT DECISION BY SAHAREN PEOPLE CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE, WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE, IN SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SPAIN. ALLUDING TO SPAIN'S TIES WITH AFRICA, MOUKNASS SAID SPAIN SHOULD ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA IN CSCE AND AS A PROMOTER OF PEACE IN
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MEDITERRANEAN AREA. IN THE CONNECTION, HE CITED PRESENCE OF

MILITARY BASES IN CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND OF FLEETS (UNNAMED) IN MEDITERRANEAN AND ATLANTIC AS FACTORS OF PERMANENT TENSIONS IN AREA.

3. MOUKNASS ALSO REFERRED TO GIRM'S INTEREST IN HAVING SPAIN PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN MAURITANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON BASIS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: MOUKNASS' COMMENT ABOUT GIRM'S VIEWS ON SPANISH SAHARA REFLECT CONCILIATORY LINE DESCRIBED IN REFAIR. AGAINST BACKDROP OF CONTINUING SPANISH AID TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREA OF SAHARA, OFFICIAL CHARACTER OF VISIT AND GOS DECORATION OF MOUKNASS WITH ORDER OF ISABEL ALSO ILLUSTRATE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IN GOS-GIRM TIES. PRESENCE OF LEADING OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON BOTH SIDES IN WORKING SESSIONS SUGGESTS THAT SPAIN HAS BEEN ASKED TO INVIGORATE ITS AID PROGRAM TO MAURITANIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID05180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS RIVERO
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730943/aaaabflb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MADRID A-85 OF MAY 2, 1973, AND NOUA, KCHOTT 261
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH-MAURITANIA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005